



Cotton/Soybean Insect Newsletter

Volume 14, Issue #10

Edisto Research & Education Center in Blackville, SC

9 August 2019

Pest Patrol Alerts

The information contained herein each week is available via text alerts that direct users to online recordings. I will update the short message weekly for at least as long as the newsletter runs. After a new message is posted, a text message is sent to alert users that I have recorded a new update. Users can subscribe for text message alerts for my updates in two easy steps. Step one: register by texting **pestpat7** to 97063. Step two: reply to the confirmation text you receive by texting the letter "y" to complete your registration. Pest Patrol Alerts are sponsored by Syngenta.

Updates on Twitter

When noteworthy events happen in the field, I will be sending them out quickly via Twitter. If you want to follow those quick updates, follow me at @bugdocisin on Twitter.



Scouting Workshops

Your ag-focused county agents and I will be offering some in-field scouting workshops for cotton and soybean insects this summer. The trainings will be free to attend, start in the morning, include lunch, and end shortly after that. The dates for those interactive workshops are:

- ~~18 July 2019 in Cameron, SC.~~ Completed and a big success. Thanks to Charles and Jonathan!
- ~~25 July 2019 in Chester, SC.~~ Completed and a big success. Thanks to Jay Crouch!
- ~~6 August 2019 at the Edisto REC near Blackville, SC.~~ Completed and a big success. Thanks to Joe Varn and Marion Barnes!

Go get trained or refresh your scouting skills at a scouting workshop!

Row-Crop Field Day

On 5 September 2019 we will have a Row-Crop Field Day at the Edisto REC near Blackville, SC. More details will be available soon.

News from Around the State

Jay Crouch, county AG agent covering Newberry County and much of the Upstate, reported that he is "starting to find fungus in kudzu bugs in soybeans. Everything else as expected this time of the year."

James Thomas, local consultant, reported that he is picking up VBC and some small FAW in peanuts almost a month earlier than normal. Most other reports are that things are quiet for insects in cotton in soybeans...just routine sprays for stink bugs, at this point.

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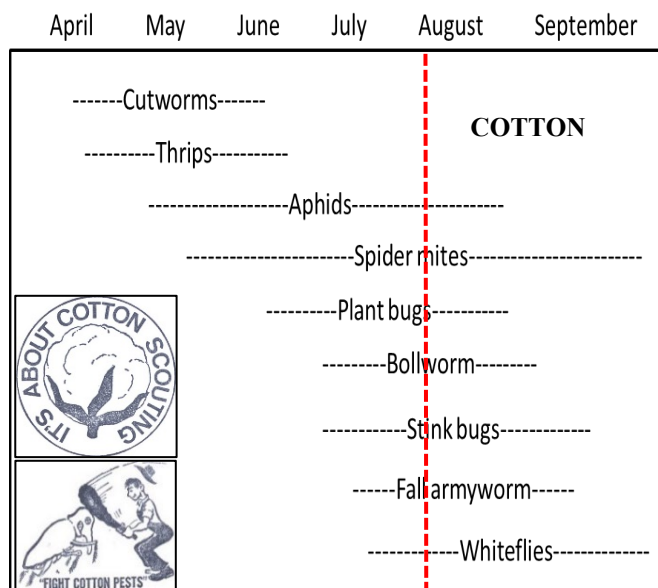


Cotton Situation

As of 4 August 2019, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office estimated that about 98% of the crop is squaring, compared with 91% at this time last week, 89% at this time last year, and 94% for the 5-year average. About 63% of the crop is setting bolls, compared with 59% at this time last week, 57% at this time last year, and 73% for the 5-year average. The condition of the crop was described as 5% excellent, 61% good, 31% fair, 3% poor, and 0% very poor. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

Cotton Insects

August is what I like to call “stink bug month” in cotton. We should be all about keeping stink bugs under control in cotton right now. I am seeing more spider mites and am keeping an eye on them in spots. Bollworm remains at low levels in my pheromone traps (see chart later in newsletter), and few moths or larvae can be found in the field. Stink bugs should be the main focus in cotton now, for sure. I hope folks know what week of bloom each field is in and that they have been following our dynamic boll injury threshold for stink bugs.

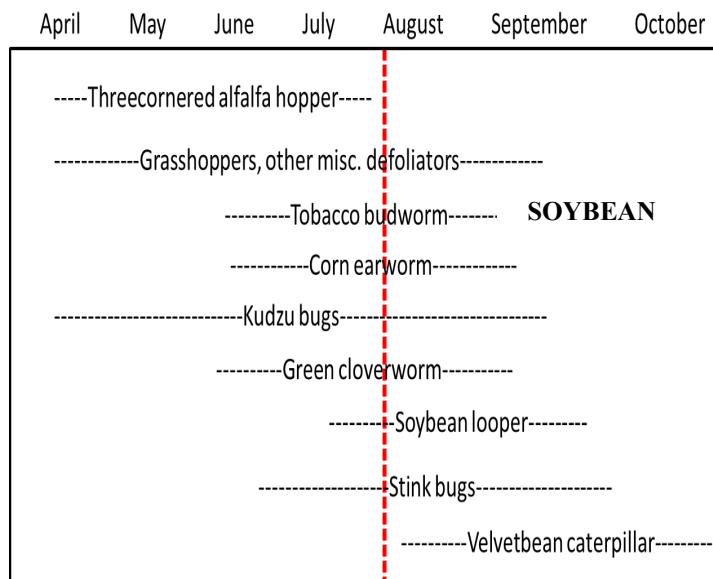


Soybean Situation

As of 4 August 2019, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office estimated that about 45% of the crop is blooming, compared with 27% the previous week, 27% at this time last year, and 52% for the 5-year average. About 8% of the crop is setting pods, compared with --% last week, 4% at this time last year, and 13% for the 5-year average. The condition of the crop was described as 3% excellent, 66% good, 31% fair, 0% poor, and 0% very poor. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

Soybean Insects

Kudzu bugs, stink bugs, and grasshoppers remain the major groups of insects in soybeans right now, but I did see some fresh caterpillars (a mix of green cloverworms and soybean loopers) in recent sampling, so those migratory defoliators will likely be an issue for many acres soon. Watch defoliation



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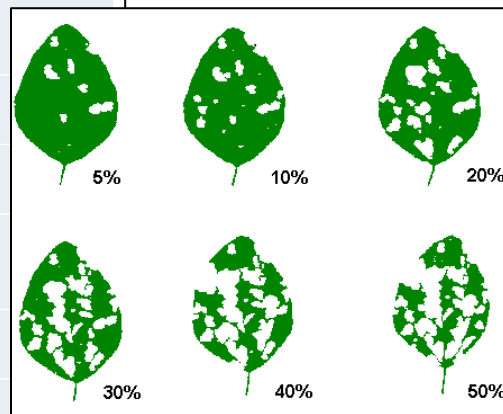
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levels, and be able to identify the species causing defoliation, as insecticide choice depends on the offending species, especially if soybean looper is the major culprit. Know your caterpillars (soybean looper, green cloverworm, velvetbean caterpillar, podworm, tobacco budworm, etc.).

Treatment guidelines for soybean insects sampled with a sweep net.

Pest	Number per 10 sweeps	Comments
stink bug	1-2	
corn earworm	3	or 15% foliage loss
velvetbean caterpillar	10	or 15% foliage loss
soybean looper	15	or 15% foliage loss
kudzu bug	10 (nymphs)	1 nymph per sweep



For other foliage feeders use a threshold of 30% defoliation before first bloom, 15% after first bloom.

Treatment thresholds (per rowft) for insects sampled with beat cloth.

Pest	Row width (inches)				
	38	30	21	14	7
stink bug	1	0.8	0.5	0.3	0.2
corn earworm*	2	1.6	1.1	0.7	0.4
velvetbean caterpillar	4-6	4	2.7	1.8	0.9
soybean looper	6-8	5.5	3.8	2.6	1.3

*this is the pod-feeding threshold for corn earworm

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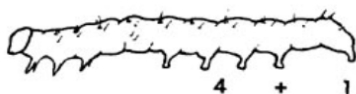
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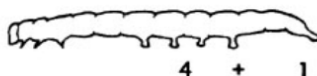


The pictures below will help you identify damaging caterpillars and the moths that deposit the eggs from which the larvae hatch. Being able to recognize the moths is a great skill to have, as it will let you know what to expect in the coming days when eggs are deposited and start hatching. Know these major species:

FIELD KEY TO COMMON SOYBEAN CATERPILLARS



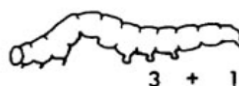
CORN EARWORM
4 + 1 pair prolegs
Curls up in hand
Black "warts" on body



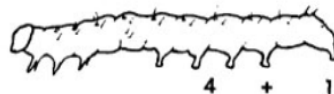
VELVETBEAN CATERPILLAR
4 + 1 pair prolegs
Very active when handled



SOYBEAN LOOPER
2 + 1 pair prolegs
Fatter at tail end
Looping movement



GREEN CLOVERWORM
3 + 1 pair prolegs
Not fatter at tail end
Looping movement



TOBACCO BUDWORM
4 + 1 pair prolegs
Curls up in hand
Black "warts" on body



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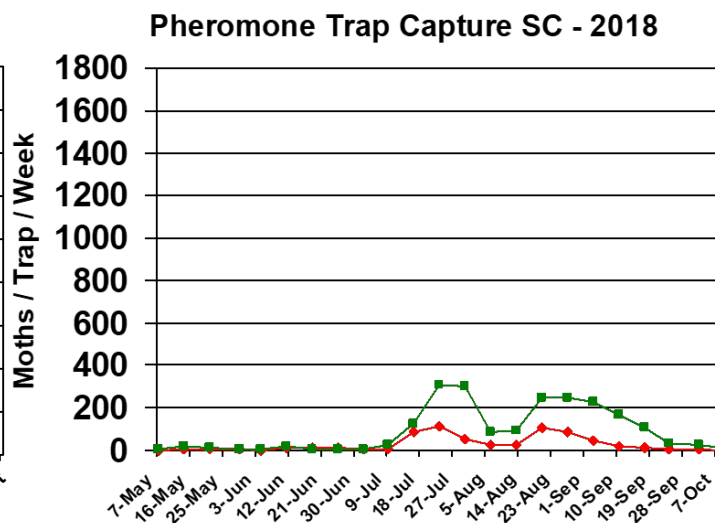
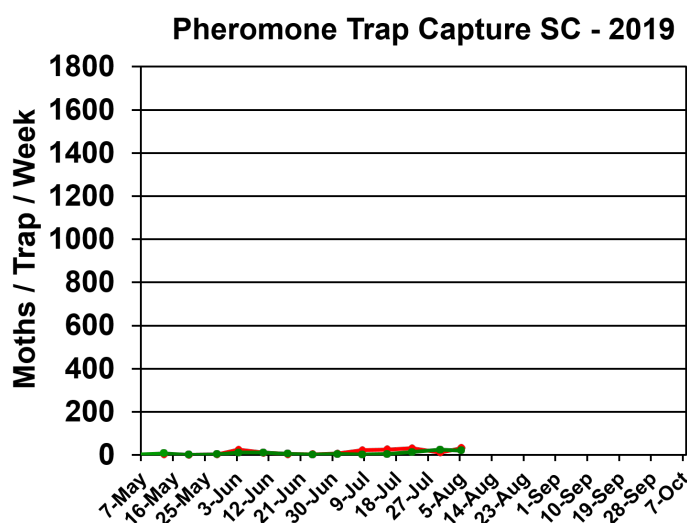
Bollworm & Tobacco Budworm



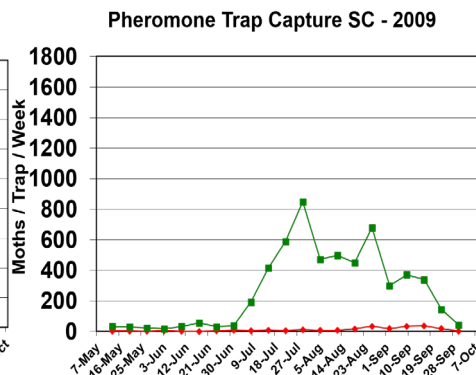
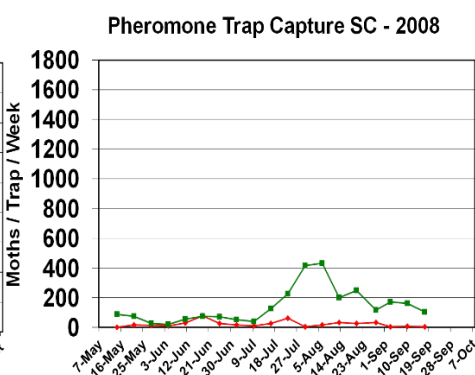
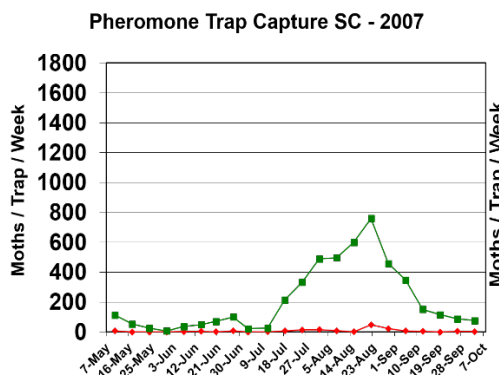
Captures of bollworm (BW) and tobacco budworm (TBW) moths in pheromone traps at EREC this season are shown below, as are the captures from 2018 for reference. Tobacco budworm continues to be important for our soybean acres and for any acres of non-Bt cotton. I provide these

data as a measure of moth presence and activity in our local area near my research plots. The numbers are not necessarily representative of the species throughout the state.

—●— TBW
—■— BW



Trap data from 2007-2017 are shown below for reference to other years of trapping data from EREC:



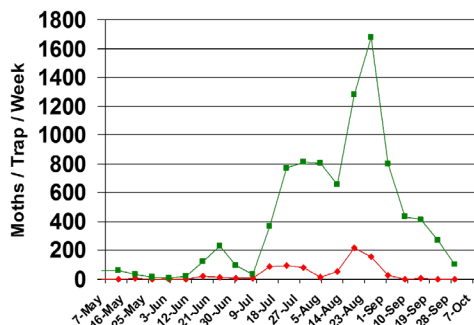
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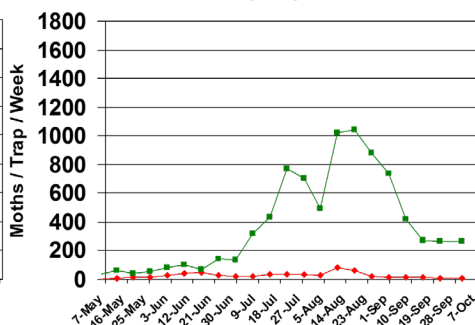
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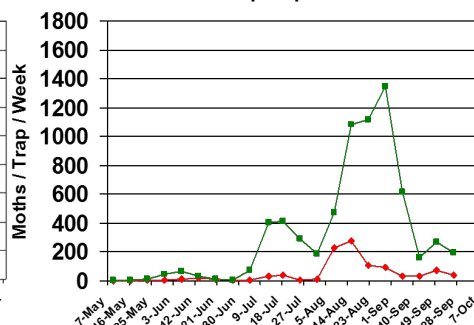
Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2010



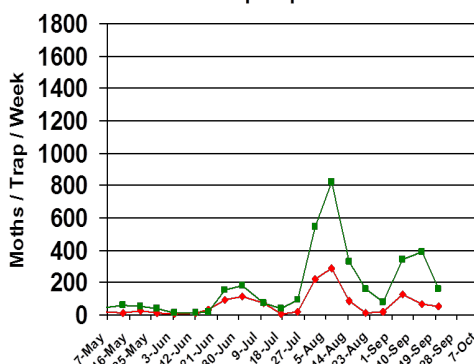
Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2011



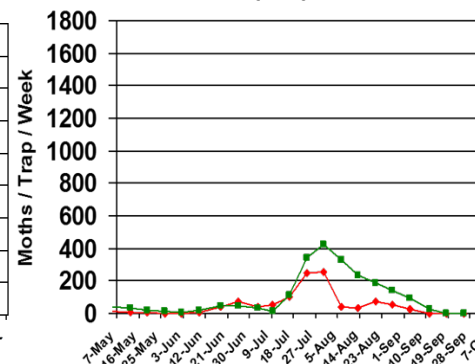
Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2012



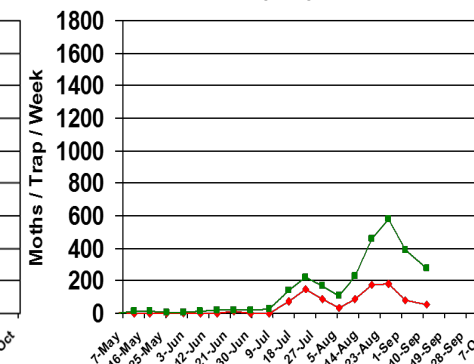
Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2013



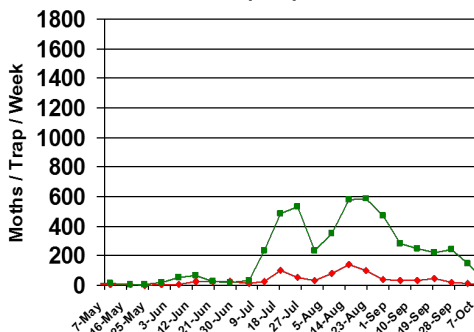
Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2014



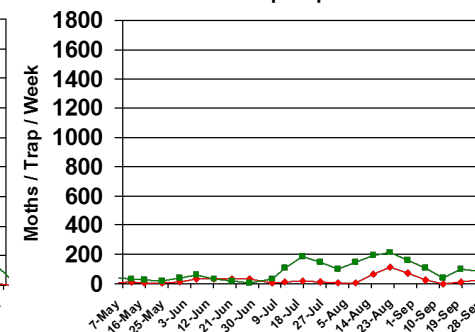
Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2015



Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2016



Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2017



Pest Management Handbook – 2019

Insect control recommendations are available online in the 2019 South Carolina Pest Management Handbook at:

<https://www.clemson.edu/extension/agronomy/pest%20management%20handbook.html>

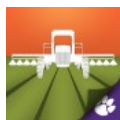
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Download our free mobile apps called “Calibrate My Sprayer” and “Mix My Sprayer” that help check for proper calibration of spraying equipment and help you with mixing user-defined pesticides, respectively, in custom units (available in both iOS and Android formats):

<http://www.clemson.edu/extension/mobile-apps/>

Need More Information?

For more Clemson University Extension information: <http://www.clemson.edu/extension/>

For historical cotton/soybean insect newsletters:

<https://www.clemson.edu/extension/agronomy/cotton1/newsletters.html>

Sincerely,

Jeremy K. Greene, Ph.D.
Professor of Entomology



Visit our website at:
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